volvement of voluntary organisation, greater efforts in training and retraining of personnel at the grass-root level, establishing greater inter-sectoral coordination strengthening linkage with related development programmes like female literacy and improvement of women's status and adoption of area intensive approach.

Improving the standard of education in rural areas

140. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a wide gap in the standards of education between the primary schools in the urban areas and the rural areas;

(b) whether Government plan to bridge the gap by taking immediate effective steps to improve the standard of education in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take up for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) to promote equality, National Policy on Education 1986 calls for provision of equal opportunity to all not only in access, but also in the conditions for success. It recommends adoption of common educational structure (10+2+3), laying down Minimum Levels of Learning for each stage of education and a substantial improvement in the quality of Primary Education. Some of the concrete steps taken in this direction are:

(i) improvement in provision of minimum essential facilities in all primary schools in the country under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(ii) The programme of Non-Formal Education for school dropouts, girls, and working children who cannot attend whole day schools.

(iii) establishment of district Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(iv) The provision of primary schools within 1 km walking distance from all habitation with a population of 300. In the case of SC/ST habitations, the norm is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200;

(v) provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free text-books, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;

(vi) provision of upper primary schools and upgrading of primary level according to the norms;

(vii) Laying down of Minimum Levels of Learning for the primary stage and setting up a procedure for learner's evaluation and assessment.

Payment of Royalty by M|s. Videocon to Foreign Parties

141. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Videocon Private Limited pays any royalty to any foreign party;

(b) if so, what is the amount thereof; and

(c) whether it is paid in Indian currency or in foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) There is no company by the name Videocon Private Limited. As per records maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, no collaboration agreement with a foreign party has been entered by any company named as Videocon Private Limited. The Reserve Bank of India have the following collaborations on record:—

(i) M|s. Videocon International Limited has two collaborations with M|s. Toshiba Corporation of Japan for which royalty at the rate of 5 per cent subject to Indian taxes for a period of 5 years has been approved. The company has not so far approached the RBI for remittance of royalty.

(ii) M|s. Videocon Appliances Limited has a collaboration agreement with M|s. Matsushita Electric Industries of Japan for which royalty is payable at the rate of 2.5 per cent subject to Indian taxes for a period of 5 years. RBI has allowed remittance of royalty amounting to US $ equivalent to Rs. 10,02,062 for the period from 18-4-90 to 30-9-1990.

(iii) M|s. Videocon VCR Limited has a collaboration agreement with M|s. Toshiba Corporation of Japan. Royalty at the rate of 5 per cent for 5 years subject to Indian taxes has been approved. No payment has been allowed under the agreement so far by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The royalty is payable in foreign currency.

Central University status for Allahabad University

142. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for granting status of a Central University to the Allahabad University in U.P.; and

(b) by when a final decision in this regard is expected?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government has made certain proposal to Government of Uttar Pradesh for conversion of Allahabad University into a Central University. The matter is under correspondence with the State Government. A final decision would depend on the response of the State Government and availability of financial resources for this purpose. No time frame has been laid down for finalising the matter.

Composition of Minorities Commission

143. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present composition of the Minorities Commission;

(b) whether it is complete at present; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to accord it a constitutional status?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The present composition of the Minorities Commission is as under:

Chairman

Shri S.M.H. Burney

Members

S|Shri

B. S. Ramoowalia

Ven. Dammaviriyo

Bakin Pertin

M. Vardarajan

Two members namely,

Shri Javen Habib and

Shri K. F. Rustamji who were appointed on 27-3-1991 have not joined.

(c) There is a proposal to accord statutory status.

Recognition to the Electrohomoeopathy System of Medicine

144. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 647 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1991, and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken by Government on the recom-